

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CARR-132A

0701325511

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

John Bernstein House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

229 East Main Street (MD 32)

6

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Carroll

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

\_\_\_ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_ STRUCTURE

\_\_\_ SITE

\_\_\_ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

\_\_\_ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

\_\_\_ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

\_\_\_ IN PROCESS

\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

\_\_\_ OCCUPIED

\_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED

☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_\_ YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_\_ AGRICULTURE

☒ COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_ GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_ MILITARY

\_\_\_ MUSEUM

\_\_\_ PARK

\_\_\_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_ RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Jenkins, Roth-Alpha Associates

Telephone #:

848-5015

STREET & NUMBER

218 East Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 625

Folio #: 109

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The intersection of Westminster's Ralph and East Main Streets has remained unchanged for about 100 years. Sitting on the northeast corner of this intersection, number 229 possesses a calm, simple facade. The house has a typical, if slightly cleaner, plan - 2 stories tall, 5 bays wide, and L-shape. All this rests on a low fieldstone foundation, recently covered with cement. Above, the south front (facing Main Street) is laid in stretcher bond under a denticulated cornice with broad architrave, all of which is under a sheet-metal covered roof. The five regularly-placed windows on the second story are too close to the architrave to have any arch treatment. They have 6 over 6 double-hung sashes, simple enframingent, and are flanked by black louvered shutters. The western 2 ground floor windows are also regularly placed; the entrance door is the central bay; there is a double window to the east. An examination of the brick work around these double windows reveals later work. Windows are all treated as above, except that they have 3 course gauged flat arches.

As noted, the 4 panel wooden entrance door is the center bay; it is one of the house's main assets with its finely molded cornice with crisp dentils, and a wide single light transom.

The west side of the house stretches along Ralph Street in 2 sections. The southern section is the western gable-ended wall of the Main Street section; to the north is the flat-roofed ell. A corbelled chimney, flush with the wall, rises at the gable's peak. Flanking the chimney, under the gable, 2 small 4/4 windows light the attic. There are 2 windows on each floor of the facade placed at the extreme north and south ends; they are vertically aligned and identical with those already discussed, except the northern most ground floor window, which is double, and which resembles Main Street's double window. The northerly section of these double windows is probably original; it is aligned with the second story's, and has an arch identical to those over the other original windows, whereas the southerly one has smaller, square bricks in its arch. Two 4/4 casement windows are placed towards the rear of the flat-roofed section. The gabled roof has only folded over tin as trim where it meets the wall; the flat roofed section has a metal gutter.

It is easy to see how the original L-shape was squared off in the early 20th century on the north side. The original gable roofed section still has one vertically aligned window per floor (6/6 on the second story, 3/3 on the ground floor), and with a small 4 light attic

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

CARR-132a

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

**SPECIFIC DATES**

c. 1870

**BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

John Bernstein

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The significance of 229 East Main Street is architectural; the building is both valid and valuable because of its own intrinsic features, and as a piece of the city-scope.

Early documentation is sketchy, at best. In 1869 (Deed 38/5) one John Bernstein bought the lot (one half of lot 16 of the original town) for \$450. The 1887 City Directory lists Bernstein as having his "house and shop," at 229 East Main. Perhaps the present Main Street double windows were originally a door to this "shop"; if so, it could indicate that the house was built by Bernstein or by another shopkeeper. It could be that originally a "standard" 6/6 window was there, but that doesn't explain why it would have been replaced. Further, the floor plan (with 2 rooms to the west, a closeted center stair north of a small entrance hall, and a large east room) would indicate that perhaps a shop could have been present.

Regardless of whether we call it the "Bernstein House", or not, the place is important to Westminster in that it is a relatively unchanged example of how the traditional Mid-Atlantic farmhouse could be adapted into an urban home-cum-business. Such a development, of course, should not be exaggerated, as there are scores of examples of twin-entrance farmhouses in this section of Maryland, as well as in south central Pennsylvania. If nothing else, using the eastern section of the ground floor as a shop indicates the adaptability of a classic form.

This "classic form" is a vital presence at this intersection as a reminder of "sense of place", as the other corners have a Second Empire Building and a small East-lake structure on them, and both styles are not indigenous to the Westminster area.

NOTE: The present owner, Jenkins-Roth Alpha Associates (by virtue of deed 626/109, dated May 10, 1976) has hired Jewel Downing to design the northern extension which, although it will leave the Main Street section in tact, will dwarf it and will violate the present floor levels.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/8 - City Lot**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Being the western half of lot 16 as shown on the original plat of Westminster located among the Land Records of Frederick County is Book L, page 472.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, ConsultantOctober, 1976

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

c/o City Hall, Public Works Department

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

WestminsterMaryland

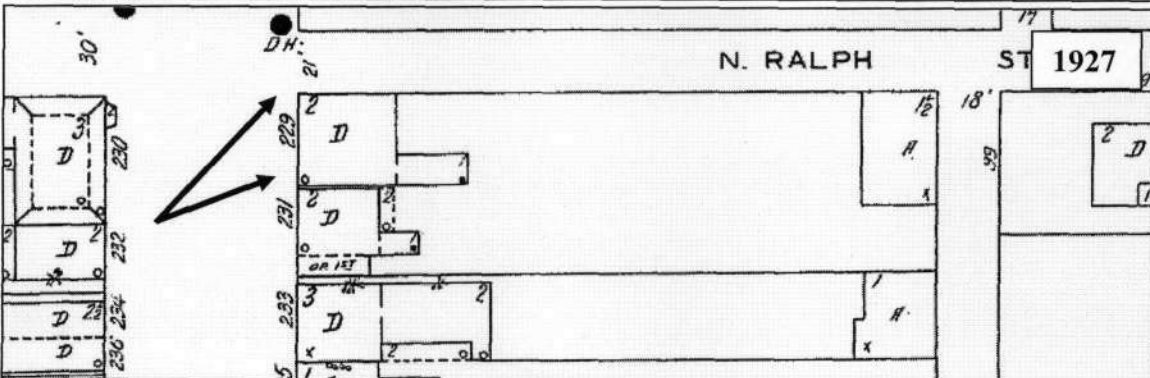
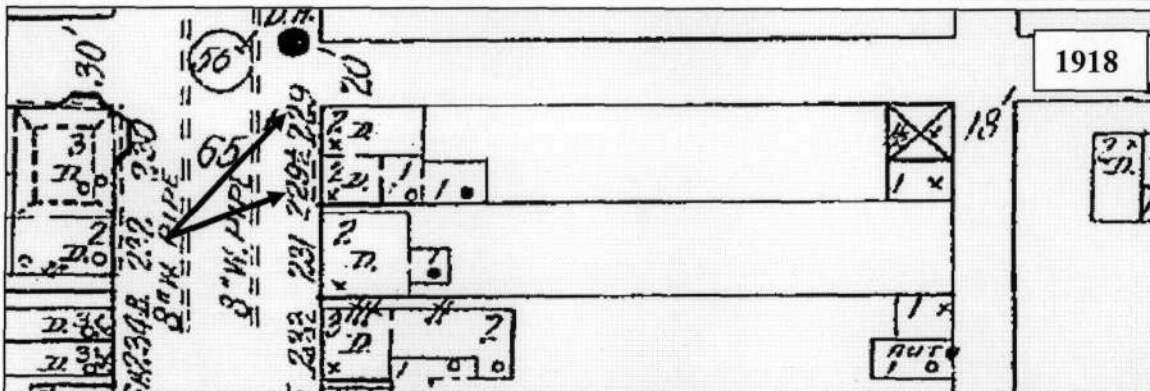
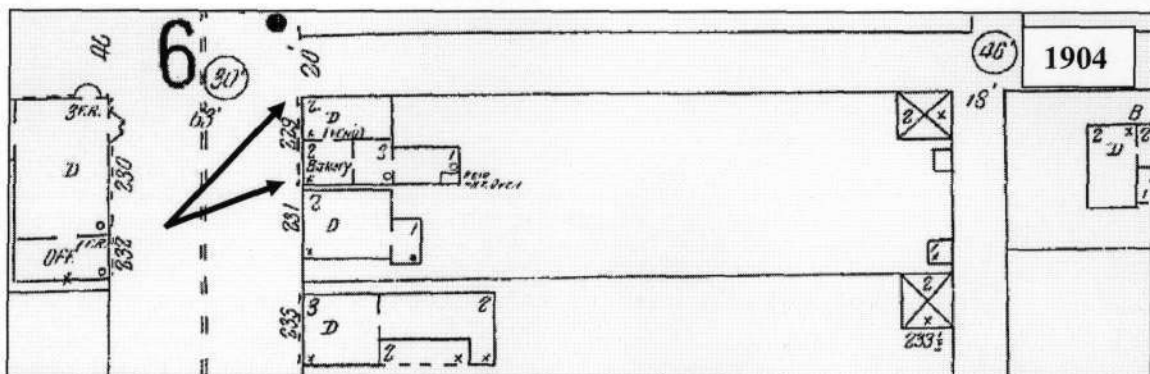
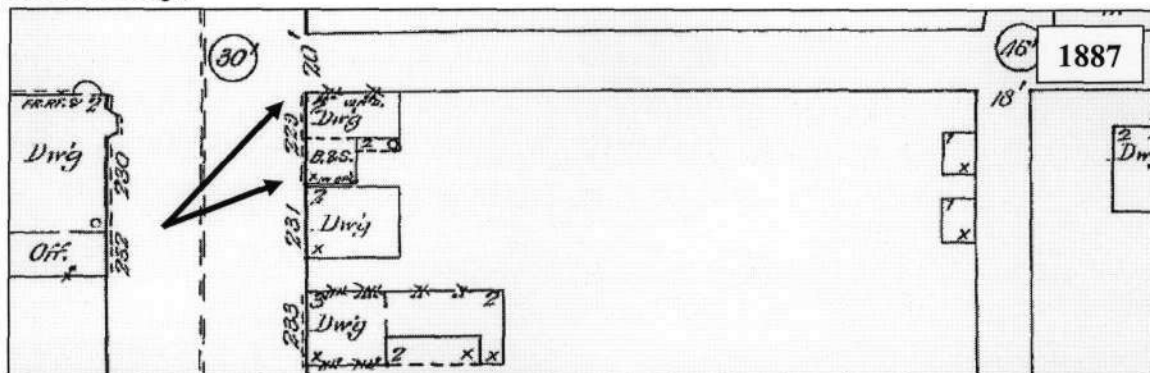
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

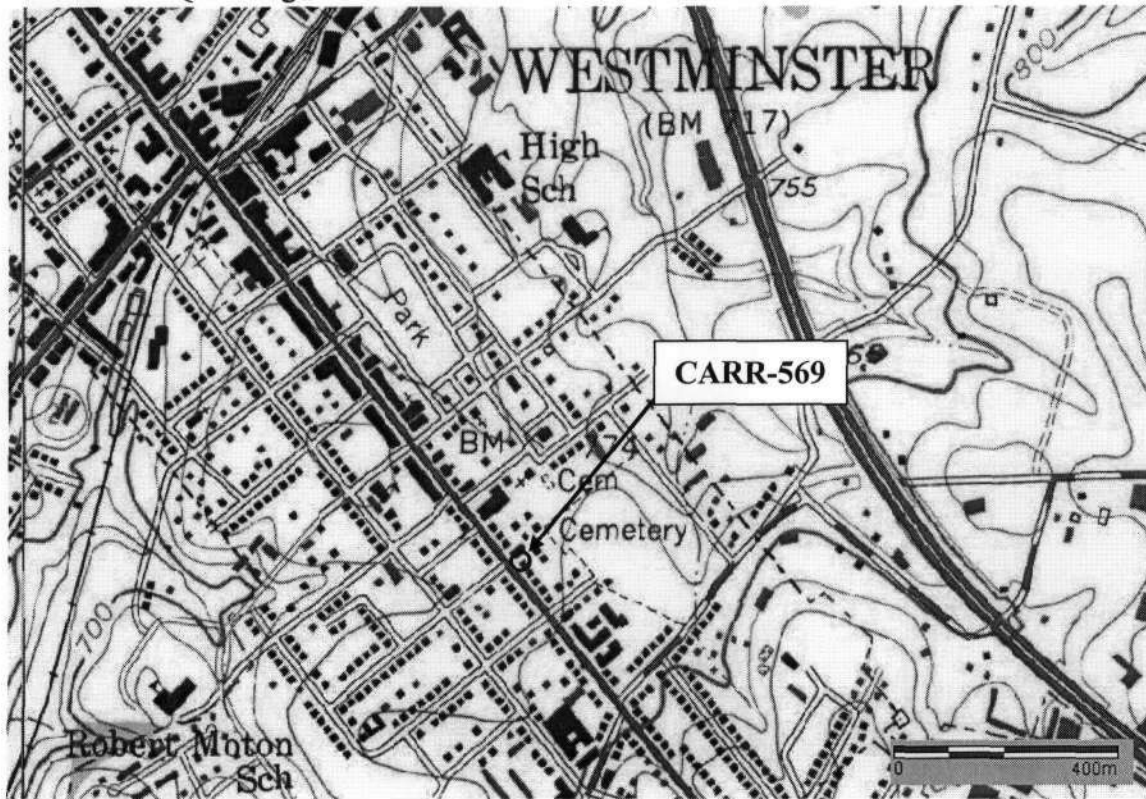
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

window. All this is to the east of the central, flush corbelled chimney which rises at the gable's peak. The once-open section of the L (facing northeast) has been filled in and clapboarded over; it once had a 2-tier flat-roofed porch running its entire length which was torn off in September 1976, in preparation for a planned extension, which is scheduled to cover the entire wall and extend to the north. The to-be-covered clapboard section has random bay placement; a door and two 6/6 windows to its west on the second story, and two 6/6 windows between 2 doors on the ground floor. Doors all have 4 panels (with the upper panels being narrow glass sheets). The entire eastern front is blind, 2 feet from the neighboring building.

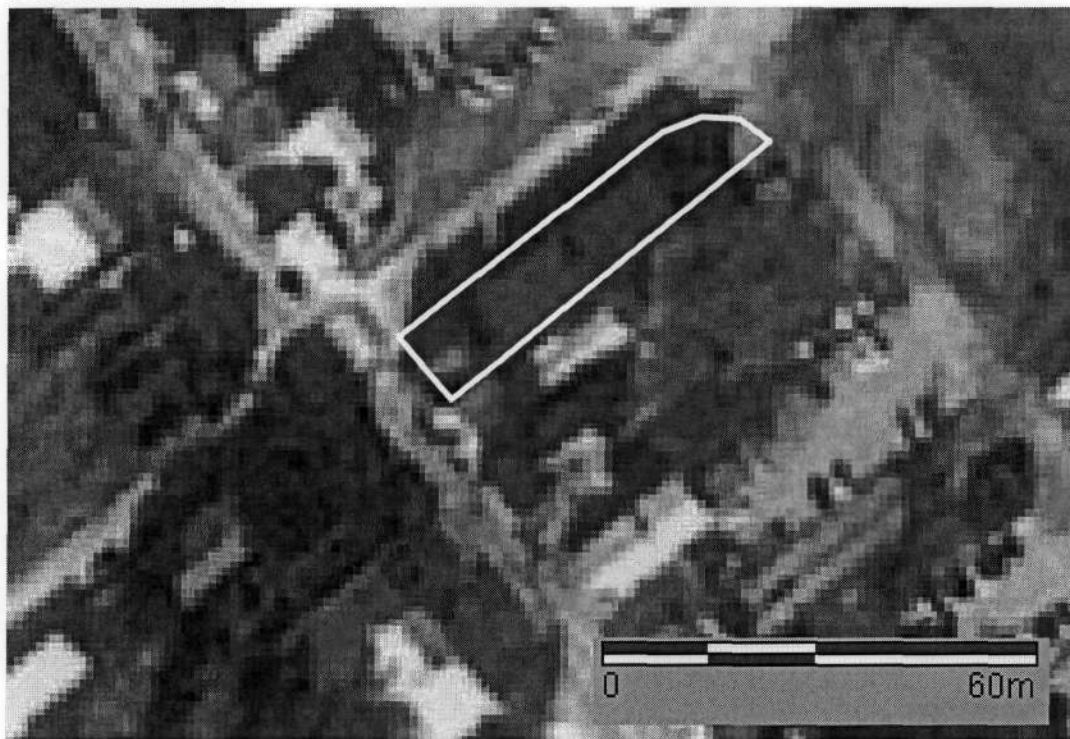
CARR-132A  
 John Bernstein House  
 229 East Main Street  
 Westminster  
 Sanborn Maps



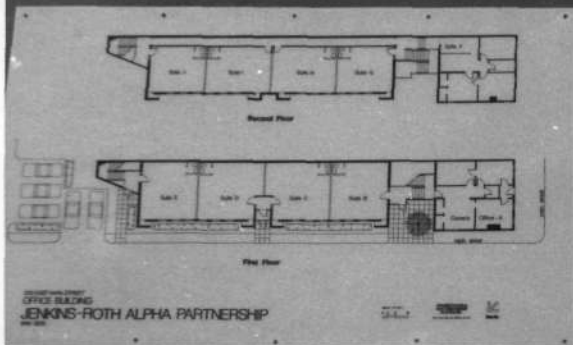
CARR-132A  
John Bernstein House  
229 East Main Street  
Westminster Quadrangle



1998 Aerial Photo



## NOW LEASING OFFICE SPACE



**AVAILABLE EARLY 1977**

# MAIN ST. ADDRESS

229 E. MAIN ST.

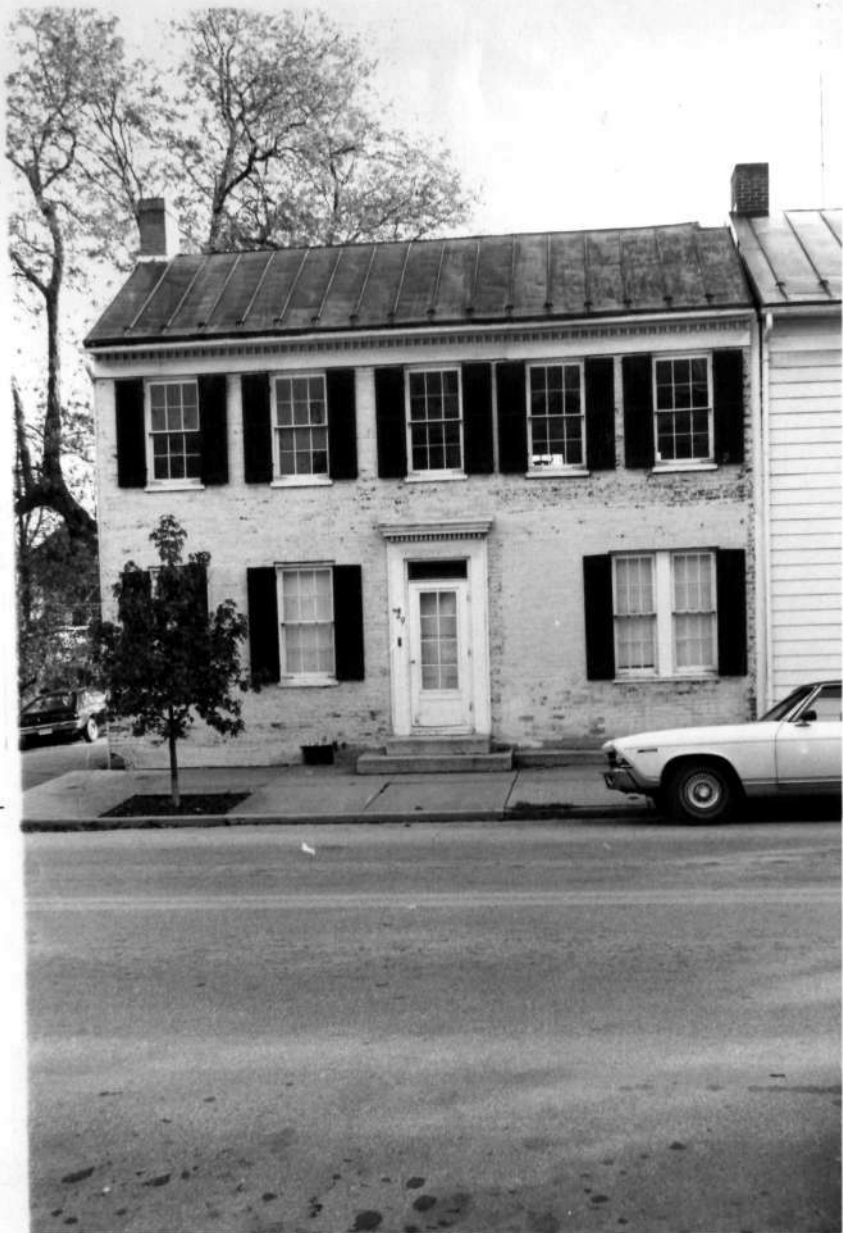
WESTMINSTER

CARR 132 (a)

PLAN - (PROPOSED) ADDITION

C. Uechi 10/76

56%



~~66%~~

56%

A-13

Carr 132 (A)

229 E. Main St. Westminster

S. facade

10/74 checks



CARR 132(a)

229 E. Main St. Westminster

N. Jucaade

10/76 C. Weeks



CARR-132A

Westminster nam 77

Melander House (Site)

2000-2001